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Message Text

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73
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 L-03 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01

/071 W
---------- 035018
R 071623Z SEP 73
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0987
INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN
AMCONSUL KADUNA

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E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, NI
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE NEW LABOR MERGER

REF: LAGOS 7042

SUMMARY: NWC, HAVING TEMPORARILY REJECTED MERGER WITH NTUF, IS NOW IN MIDST BEHIND-THE-SCENE TALKS WITH ULC ON POSSIBLE MERGER. IF DETAILS CAN BE RESOLVED, MERGER ACCONUNCEMENT COULD BE MADE THIS WEEKEND. END SUMMARY.

1. NIGERIAN WORKERS' COUNCIL (NWC), WHICH AT LAST MINUTE BACKED OUT OF MERGER WITH NEWLY CREATED NTUF LAST WEEK BUT LEFT DOOR OPEN FOR FUTURE MERGER (REFTEL), HAS ALSO BEEN QUIETLY MEETING WITH UNITED LABOR CONGRESS (ULC) OFFICIALS OVER PAST FEW WEEKS IN EFFORT TO WORK OUT MERGER BETWEEN ULC AND NWC. DETAILS NOT YET AVAILABLE BUT EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS SUFFICIENT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE THAT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR SEPT. 8 MAY BE FINAL MEETING, AFTER WHICH MERGER MAY BE PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED. ULC PRESIDENT KALTUNGO ARRIVED IN LAGOS SEPT. 6 ALLEGEDLY TO TAKE PART IN THIS MEETING.

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2. PROBLEMS TO BE RESOLVED APPEAR TO BE: WHETHER NWC

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WILL MERGE INTO ULC OR WHETHER IT IS BETTER TO GIVE NEW ORGANIZATION A NEW NAME; INTERNATIONAL AFFILICATION OF NEW GROUP, WITH NWC PUSHING FOR SOME TYPE OF CONTINUED CONTACT WITH WCL; USE OF PRESENT NWC OFFICE SPACE, WITH NWC WANTING SOME ASSURANCES OF ASSISTANCE IN PAYING PAST AND FUTURE RENTAL COSTS; AND SOME ACCOMMODATION IN NEW ORGANIZATION LEADERSHIP FOR NWC OFFICIALS. WE UNDERSTAND ON LAST POINT THAT NWC PRESIENT R. A. ADELE MAY BE GIVEN VICE PRESIDENT POSITION IN NEW STRUCTURE, WHILE NWC GENERAL SECRETARY J. U. AKPAN MAY BE MADE DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARY. ULC PROPOSES BOTH GROUPS CALL EMERGENCY CONFERENCE THIS YEAR TO OFFICIALLY ELECT NEW LEADERSHIP.

3. COMMENT: MERGER BETWEEN THESE TWO GROUPS WOULD BE MORE LOGICAL THAN WOULD NWC MERGER INTO NEWLY CREATED NTUF, NWC LEADERS HAVE, HOWEVER, PROVEN TO BE RATHER MERCURICAL INNPAST MERGER ATTEMPTS AND MAY YET AGAIN FAIL TO CARRY OUT TO FINAL CONCLUSION THEIR EFFORTS TO JOIN WITH ONE OF TWO LARGER CENTRAL UNION BODIES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR UNIONS, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, REORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LAGOS07353
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730949/aaaabjwu.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: LAGOS 7042
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10-Jan-2002 by willialc>; APPROVED <31-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE NEW LABOR MERGER
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, NI, NWC, NIGERIAN WORKERS COUNCIL, UNITED LABOR CONGRESS, ULC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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